

Message Text

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03696 121837Z

44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
----- 072553

O P 121715Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5336
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
COMUSSAG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3696

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PINT, CB
SUBJECT: TEACHER UNREST

REF: PHNOM PENH 3352/061230Z MAR 74

1. THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOST THE INITIATIVE AGAIN IN THE TEACHER STRIKE AND MAY HAVE LOST CONTROL.
2. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PHNOM PENH SCHOOLS CLOSED YESTERDAY MARCH 11. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE TEACHERS IGNORED THE APPEALS OF THEIR LEADERS FOR MODERATION (PHNOM PENH 3484/081155Z MAR 74 AND PHNOM PENH 3551/091035Z MAR 74) OR WHETHER THESE APPEALS WERE IN FACT NEVER MADE. THE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT REQUIRED TO GET SO MANY TEACHERS TO LEAVE THEIR CLASSROOMS IN ONE DAY SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT TEACHERS COMMITTEES' LEADERS MISLED US AND THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY INDICATED THEY COUNSELED MODERATION.
3. IN A HASTY EFFORT TO RECOUP, EDUCATION MINISTER KEO SANGKIM WORKED OUT A DEAL TODAY MARCH 12 WITH THE NATIONAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (AMCEK) UNDER WHICH HE WOULD AUTHORIZE A NATIONAL CONGRESS OF TEACHERS ON APRIL 4 TO EXAMINE THE STRIKE ISSUE, AND THEY WOULD APPEAL FOR A RESUMPTION OF WORK
SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03696 121837Z

FROM MARCH 19 TO THEN. THIS DEAL WAS NOT AUTHORIZED BY PRIME MINISTER BORET, BUT HE IS NOW STUCK WITH IT.

4. THE RENEWAL OF THE STRIKE WOULD APPEAR DUE TO

GOVERNMENT WAFLING IN EXECUTING ITS ORIGINAL STRATEGY. THIS STRATEGY, WHICH WAS BASED ON THE WE THINK JUSTIFIED PRESUMPTION THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE TEACHERS ARE RESPONDING MORE TO POCKETBOOK THAN TO POLITICAL ISSUES, CALLED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO USE THE PERIOD WHEN THE SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED:

(A) TO TRY TO SEPARATE THE BULK OF THE TEACHERS FROM THE RADICAL STRIKE COMMITTEE BY EFFORTS AT INTIMIDATION; AND

(B) TO MOVE DECISIVELY TO MEET THE ECONOMIC GRIEVANCES BY PROVIDING A 100 MILLION RIEL LOAN TO TEACHER COOPERATIVES AND BY IMPOSING A FEE ON EACH STUDENT.

5. RECONSTRUCTING GKR ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST WEEK, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT MADE ONLY A FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT THE ECONOMIC RESPONSE. MINISTER OF EDUCATION KEO SANGKIM DID MEET WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND TOLD THEM IN VERY GENERAL TERMS OF THE 100 MILLION RIEL LOAN, WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO EXPLAIN ITS WORKINGS OR APPARENTLY MAKE IT CONVINCING. HE HAS YET TO ACT ON THE SCENARIO FORESEEN (REFTEL PARA 5) TO INSTITUTE THE STUDENT FEES. CHARACTERISTICALLY, IT IS NOW CONFIRMED THAT SANGKIM DID INDEED MISREPRESENT THE RESULTS OF THE POLL TO BORET (REFTEL).

6. I REHEARSED THIS ANALYSIS TO BORET ON MARCH 11, STRESSING TO HIM THAT THE STRIKE IS LIKELY TO GO ON INDEFINITELY, AND BECOME MORE POLITICIZED, IF HE DOES NOT ACT QUICKLY TO MEET THE ECONOMIC GRIEVANCES. BORET AND THE CABINET HAVE BEEN BATTING THIS ISSUE AROUND ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY SINCE, BUT INDECISIVELY. ONLY RESULTS SO FAR ARE:

(A) MEETING MARCH 14 BETWEEN THE CABINET, AMCEK CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL INSPECTORS;

SECRET

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03696 121837Z

(B) ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE PARENT PRESSURE ON TEACHERS TO GO BACK TO WORK; AND

(C) ANNOUNCE THAT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE HEADED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER HANG THUN HAK WILL STUDY TEACHER DEMANDS.

7. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE IS TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE, AND WE TOLD BORET SO AGAIN TONIGHT. WE WILL GO TO LON NOL ON THIS TOMORROW.

8. BORET OBVIOUSLY IS ILL-SERVED BY HIS EDUCATION MINISTER, WHO IS COMING APART UNDER PRESSURE. BUT HE CAN'T FIRE HIM NOW, OR

MAYBE ANY TIME SOON; KEO SANGKIM IS THE MAIN INDEPENDENT
REMAINING IN THE CABINET.

9. THE LOSS OF INITIATIVE BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE COSTLY.
WITH THE GOVERNMENT NOW IN THE POSITION OF DEMANDEUR, THE
ECONOMIC BILL WILL RISE. AND WITH NO FIRM LEAD FROM THE
GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL EFFERVESCENCE WILL GO ON.
ENDERS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, TEACHERS, LABOR STRIKES, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, LABOR OBJECTIVES, LABOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM03696
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740141-1740
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740382/abbrzbio.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: PHNOM PENH 3352/061230Z MAR 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEACHER UNREST
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CB, AMCEK, (SANGKIM, KEO)
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
CINCPAC
COMUSSAG
SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

